



**December 21, 2021**

### **AgriRecovery Update for 2021 Flood Impacted Farmers**

The B.C. government is continuing to develop an AgriRecovery program with the Government of Canada to help livestock and crop producers who experienced extraordinary losses due to flooding return to production.

To develop an effective program for the various commodity growers in the different disaster areas, extensive consultation with many farming organizations and individual farmers is required, and the two governments are working towards opening the program to applications in January.

AgriRecovery is able to provide support with extraordinary recovery costs not covered by existing programs or private insurance. When the AgriRecovery program opens, impacted producers can expect to receive support with on-farm extraordinary expenses in areas such as:

- Animal welfare: feeding, barn and animal shelter restoration, repairs and cleaning as well as livestock injury, mortality disposal and transportation
- Production infrastructure: clean-up and restoration of barns, water and waste systems, livestock containment fences, and the rental of temporary production facilities
- Loss of perennial plants not raised for resale
- Restoration of agricultural land: returning flood impacted land to a safe environment for agricultural production; this may include drainage infrastructure.
- Rebuilding of protective infrastructure: Reasonable repair of on-farm protective works such as drainage ditches and riprap.

Farmers who have already begun to undertake any work in the areas above are strongly advised to keep their receipts, track the hours of work involved, and take pictures documenting the damage and repairs to support their AgriRecovery application.

To keep informed of any updates to the program and to receive notification of the applications opening, impacted farmers should register with [agrirecovery@gov.bc.ca](mailto:agrirecovery@gov.bc.ca) . One-on-one assistance will be provided to farmers requiring assistance completing applications when the program is available, and service will be provided in English and Punjabi.

#### **Other Support Programs**

There are also different Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries-delivered Business Risk Management programs (BRM), Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) and commercial insurance that offer different levels of support for producers who have experienced losses.

**Farmers are advised to:**



**Contact the Ministry if you hold an AgriInsurance (crop insurance) policy** to open a claim. 2021 policies were issued for blueberry, strawberry and grape plants, tulip and daffodil bulbs and field vegetables. AgriInsurance policies differ depending on the coverage the producer has selected. Service in English and Punjabi is available

**Apply for AgriStability (if you do not already participate)** AgriStability is a continuous program that provides assistance against severe drops in income, based on individual farm's income and expenses in previous years, and considers losses to stored crop, nursery plants and livestock in assessments. Income loss in 2021 may include causes such as heat, labour issues, flooding losses. Applications for the 2021 year are still open, with interim payments often possible within a few weeks of application. Service is provided in English and Punjabi.

**Contact Emergency BC (EMBC) to learn about Disaster Financial Assistance criteria.** DFA provides assistance with flood clean-up and land reparation, but not to replant crops or replace lost income. Only EMBC personnel are qualified to determine what assistance and expenses may be eligible.

**Contact your commercial insurance provider** and start the claim process, keeping in mind, in many cases mobile equipment (e.g. tractors, harvesters) are insurable and often covered by commercial insurance.

**Look into the Emergency Flood Forage Program which helps** commercial livestock producers with emergency supplies of forage to keep their animals fed and healthy. The B.C. government is working with the BC Cattlemen's Association and the B.C. Forage Council to deliver this program to assist livestock producers care for their livestock. Producers can contact the program partners to determine eligibility and complete an application:

- The B.C. Forage Council (producers in the Fraser Valley): [hay@bcforagecouncil.com](mailto:hay@bcforagecouncil.com)
- The BC Cattlemen's Association (producers in the Interior): [hay@cattlemen.bc.ca](mailto:hay@cattlemen.bc.ca)